

"AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES
Office of the Commander-in-Chief,
France

February 19, 1919.

*Major General Edward M. Lewis,
Commanding 30th Division,
American Expeditionary Forces.*

MY DEAR GENERAL LEWIS:

It gives me much pleasure to extend to you and the officers and the men of the 30th Division my sincere compliments upon their appearance at the review and inspection on the 21st of January, southwest of Tielle, which was excellent and is just what would be expected in a command with such a splendid fighting record.

After its preliminary training the division entered the line on July 16th, where it remained almost continuously until the end of October. In that time it was in the actual battle from the 30th of August and took part in the Ypres-Lys and Somme offensives. On September 29th the division broke through both the Hindenburg and the Le Catelet Nauroy lines, capturing Bellicourt and Nauroy, an operation on which all subsequent action of the 4th British Army depended. From October 7th to October 20th, the division advanced 23 kilometers in a continued series of attacks, capturing 2,352 of the enemy. Brancourt, Premont, Busigny, St. Benin, St. Souplet and Escaufourt, La Haie, Minneresse and Vaux Andigny are names which will live in the memories of those who fought in the 30th Division. But its especial glory will always be the honor you won by breaking the Hindenburg line on September 29th. Such a record is one of which we are all proud.

It is gratifying to see your troops in such good physical shape, but still more so to know that this almost ideal condition will continue to the end of their service and beyond, as an exemplification of their high character and soldierly qualities.

I inspected the artillery brigade of the division later, and found the same high standard of personnel that marks the rest of the division.

Very sincerely yours,

JOHN J. PERSHING."